

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1-8 having been amended, and new Claims 9-19 having been added, by way of the present response.

Applicants respectfully assert that support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and that therefore no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 5, 2003, was indicated as having been considered; the abstract was objected to; and Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-8 recite allowable subject matter, such that Claims 1-8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. For the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully assert that the non-narrowing amendments to the claims have overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

As stated above the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 5, 2003, was indicated as having been considered. Applicants respectfully note, however, that item AO, document number 0 809 957, has not been acknowledged as having been considered. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner evidence consideration of item AO in the next U.S. Patent and Trademark Office communication.

As stated above the abstract was objected to. In response, Applicants have amended the abstract to remove the statement "Figure 1." Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the abstract be withdrawn.

As stated above, Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In response, Applicants have amended the claims in a non-narrowing amendment to provide antecedent basis for the features noted by the Examiner, as well as to remedy potential informalities and to place the claims in better conformity with standard U.S. practice and in better condition for allowance. With respect to the claimed features of “10 mm” recited in original dependent Claim 2, Applicants have amended Claim 2 to remove the recitation of “10 mm,” and have added new dependent Claim 9 which recites “10 mm.” Applicants have further added new dependent Claim 10, which recites features similar to those recited in dependent Claim 3. Thus, in accordance with the Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of Claims 1-10.

Applicants respectfully assert that new independent Claim 11 recites features similar to those recited in independent Claim 1, and is therefore allowable for reasons similar to those of independent Claim 1, as well as for its own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new independent Claim 11.

Applicants respectfully assert that new independent Claim 12, as well as Claims 13-19 depending therefrom, recite novel and unobvious features. By way of specific non-limiting examples, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed features recited in independent Claim 13 of a bearing connecting a support and a carrier, the bearing configured to permit movement of the support in a first direction in a plane and rotation in the plane about an axis that is offset from an axis of symmetry of the support, are not taught or suggested by the references of record in the application. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new Claims 12-19.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in

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condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-19 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

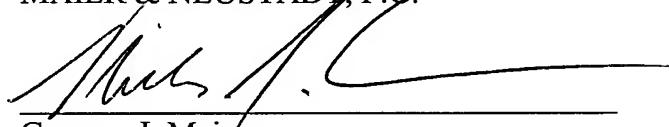
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Respectfully submitted,

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